

Please amend the present application as follows:

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Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———") or brackets ("[[]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A system that authorizes connection devices, the system comprising:

a communication system interface configured to receive authorization from a remote network administrator device for a processing system to communicatively couple to an intermediary connection device that facilitates connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device;

a card detector configured to detect the presence of the connection device when coupled to the processing system; and

a card power switch configured to receive an authorization signal when the processing system is authorized to communicatively couple to the connection device, and configured to supply power to the connection device only when the authorization signal is present and when the card detector detects the presence of the connection device;

wherein no input from a user of the system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an input/output (I/O) connection configured to couple to the connection device such that communications can be received via the connection device from another communication system or a peripheral device.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the I/O connection comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein the I/O connection comprises a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) Express connection.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein the I/O connection comprises an Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) connection.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a connection to the card detector such that the card detector communicates the authorization signal to the card power switch.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a connection to the card power switch from a communication bus such that the authorization signal is received by the card power switch.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a memory configured to store the authorization from the network administrator device; and

a processor configured to retrieve the authorization from the memory and further configured to cause the authorization signal to be communicated to the card power switch.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a single receptacle residing on the processing system, wherein the connection device and a second type of connection device are configured to couple to the processing system using the single receptacle.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the card power switch provides a first power that is unique to power requirements of the connection device and a second power that is unique to power requirements of the second type of connection device.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:
a signal generator configured to generate the authorization signal;
a logical OR gate comprising:
a first input coupled to the signal generator;
a second input coupled to a connector configured to detect the presence of the connection device when coupled to the processing system; and
an output coupled to the card power switch such that the authorization signal is generated by the output of the logical OR gate only when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system and when presence of the connection device is detected.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a violation detector configured to detect presence of the connection device and further configured to communicate a violation signal to the network administrator device when the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system.

13. (Currently amended) A method for authorizing connection devices, the method comprising:

detecting presence of an intermediary connection device when coupled to a processing system, the connection device being configured to facilitate connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device;

determining if the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

providing power to the connection device when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and

not providing ~~sufficient~~ power to the connection device when the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

wherein no input from a user of the processing system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving an authorization from a remote network administrator device via a communication system coupling the remote network administrator device and the processing system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

generating an authorization signal when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and
communicating the authorization signal to a card power switch such that the card power switch provides power to the connection device when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein providing power comprises providing power that is unique to power requirements of the connection device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

detecting presence of a second type of connection device when coupled to the processing system;

determining if the second type of connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

providing power to the second type of connection device if the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and

not providing power to the second type of connection device if the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein providing power to the second type of connection device comprises providing power that is unique to power requirements of the second type of connection device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the connection device and the second type of connection device are configured to couple to the processing system using a single receptacle residing on the processing system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
determining that the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;
generating a violation signal in response to determining that the connection device is not authorized; and
communicating the violation signal to a remote network administrator device via a communication system coupling the remote network administrator device and the processing system.

21. (Currently amended) A system for authorizing connection devices, the system comprising:

means for detecting presence of an intermediary connection device when coupled to a processing system, the connection device being configured to facilitate connectivity between the processing system and a separate processing system or peripheral device;

means for determining if the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

means for actuating a card power switch such that the connection device is provided power when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and

means for not actuating the card power switch such that the connection device is not provided power when the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

wherein no input from a user of the system is used to determine whether power is to be supplied to the connection device.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for receiving an authorization from a remote network administrator device via a communication system coupling the remote network administrator device and the processing system.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

means for generating an authorization signal when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and

means for communicating the authorization signal to the card power switch such that the card power switch provides power to the connection device when the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for providing power comprise means for providing power that is unique to power requirements of the connection device.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

means for detecting presence of a second type of connection device when coupled to the processing system;

means for determining if the second type of connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;

means for providing power to the second type of connection device if the connection device is authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system; and

means for not providing power to the second type of connection device if the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for providing power to the second type of connection device comprise means for providing power that is unique to power requirements of the second type of connection device.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for coupling the connection device and the second type of connection device to the processing system using the same means for coupling residing on the processing system.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

- means for determining that the connection device is not authorized to be communicatively coupled to the processing system;
- means for generating a violation signal in response to determining that the connection device is not authorized; and
- means for communicating the violation signal to a remote network administrator device via a communication system coupling the remote network administrator device and the processing system.